



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/26481
21 September 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 20 SEPTEMBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to submit a "Statement on Somalia" which reflects the position of the Government of Eritrea on the situation in Somalia.

Excellency, I request that this statement be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hagos GHEBREHIWET
Permanent Representative
to the United Nations

Annex

Statement dated 17 September 1993 on Somalia

The Government of Eritrea is gravely concerned about recent developments and the rapidly deteriorating situation in Somalia. A humanitarian intervention which started out with so much promise and solid, all-round support has been marred by escalating military conflict, the killing of peace-keeping troops and the rise in casualties among the civilian population, including women and children. Support for, and confidence in, the Somali intervention is being eroded, which, we believe, is detrimental to the whole operation.

In the recent IGADD (Intergovernmental Authority on Drought Development) Summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 6 to 7 September, the Heads of State of the countries of the Horn of Africa, while applauding the "positive achievements of the United Nations in Somalia", stressed that "caution is required in handling the current very complicated political situation". The Summit also called for "a more meaningful consultation between UNOSOM and the countries of the subregion and a more active role on the part of the countries of the subregion."

Consistent with the stance of the Heads of State of the seven IGADD member countries and in the light of the continually deteriorating situation in Somalia, the Government of Eritrea urges that every effort be made to avoid a military showdown which is bound to result in heavy civilian casualties and will not contribute to the resolution of the underlying issues. It is our conviction that a peaceful solution to the issue concerning General Mohamed Farah Aidid is the only viable one and urge that all peace efforts towards that end be continued and be given a chance. We strongly believe that the international community should not be side-tracked and that the focus should once again return to the fundamental humanitarian and political issues, which were addressed positively in the March 1993 Addis Ababa Accords.

The Government of Eritrea reiterates that within its very modest capabilities, it will continue to exert itself to make a positive contribution to the international and regional efforts for peace and reconciliation in tormented Somalia.
